



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Wisconsin*

517 East Wisconsin Avenue

Milwaukee, WI 53202

MEDIA RELEASE

February 1, 2008

**FEDERAL ARSON AND MAIL FRAUD CONVICTIONS OBTAINED
AGAINST GREEN BAY STORE OWNER AND HER SON**

United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic announced today that Green Bay resident Mayneng Xiong, 52, was convicted of mail fraud, and her son Pao Xiong a.k.a. Danny, 23, was convicted of arson, following their guilty pleas in federal court. In a related case, Xee Vue, 21, was convicted on January 16, 2008 of making false statements to a federal agent.

The federal charges resulted from an investigation into a fire discovered during the early morning hours on January 8, 2006, at TMX May's Super Market (May's), located at 120 S. Broadway St. Green Bay, Wisconsin. The plea agreements for Mayneng Xiong and Pao Xiong offer the following facts in support of their convictions:

(1) The fire that damaged May's was set intentionally. Upon examining the fire scene, arson investigators observed three plastic gasoline cans, ten isopropyl alcohol bottles and a number of unraveled rolls of paper towels. These items were found throughout the store and were deliberately placed in order to initiate and facilitate the fire;

(2) Mayneng Xiong (Mayneng) was the owner of May's at the time of the fire. For the past several years, May's was not doing well financially. Additionally, Mayneng was also the target of a fraud investigation conducted by an agent from the Women Infant and Children program (WIC). Mayneng was advised by the agent that WIC was seeking reimbursement for a substantial amount of money previously provided to her.

(3) Pao Xiong (Pao) is the son of Mayneng Xiong. Pao felt responsible for the financial well being of his mother, Mayneng. Mayneng had a significant property insurance policy that covered May's for property damage and business interruption. Mayneng and Pao believed that by intentionally starting a fire at May's, Mayneng would be able to later submit an insurance claim and unjustly collect money pursuant to the policy.

(4) At approximately 8:48 p.m. on January 7th, Mayneng purchased 12 isopropyl alcohol bottles from a local Walmart store. The bottles of isopropyl alcohol found at the fire scene, matched the lot number of bottles sold to Mayneng. Mayneng admits that after purchasing the bottles of isopropyl alcohol, she placed them, as well as at least one gas can, inside May's knowing that they would be used by Pao to start the fire. Pao spread these bottles of isopropyl alcohol and gasoline about May's and then intentionally lit May's on fire causing substantial damage to the store.

(5) On April 28, 2006, Mayneng submitted, via the U.S. Mail, several proof of loss sworn statements to her insurance company. Separate statements were submitted for the

following claims: (a) \$25,000.00 for clean up and debris removal; (b) \$22,833.00 plus future loss for business interruption; (c) \$350,000.00 for loss of business inventory; and (d) \$397,000.00 for loss of building. Mayneng claimed in each of the statements that the loss did not originate by any act, design or procurement on her part. Mayneng agrees that this claim is materially false and was made intentionally for purposes of defrauding her insurance company.

Concerning Xee Vue's false statement to a federal agent charges, her plea agreement states the following facts in support of her conviction:

(1) On February 7, 2006, ATF agents interviewed her after identifying themselves as federal law enforcement. Vue falsely stated that she drove Mayneng Xiong to a cultural party in Green Bay on January 7, 2006, between 6:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., and, after leaving her at that location, did not see Mayneng Xiong until the next day. This statement is materially false as Vue knew that she was present with Mayneng Xiong and others at May's at approximately 7:00 p.m. that day.

(2) During that same interview, Vue also falsely stated that after leaving Xiong at the cultural party on January 7, 2006, she went to the residence of Pao Xiong, a suspect in the arson, and remained with Pao Xiong the rest of the evening until she left his residence sometime between 11:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m. This statement served as an alibi for Pao Xiong and was materially false as Vue knew that she was in Oshkosh and various locations in Green Bay other than Pao Xiong's residence without being in the presence of Pao Xiong.

Mayneng Xiong and Pao Xiong are scheduled to be sentenced on April 29, 2008. Xee Vue is scheduled to be sentenced on April 11, 2008.

The charges of arson and mail fraud each carry a maximum term of imprisonment of twenty years and \$250,000 fine. The arson charge has a mandatory minimum five year term of imprisonment. The false statement to a federal agent charge has a maximum term of imprisonment of five years and \$250,000 fine.

This case was investigated by the United States Department of Justice-Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco Firearms, and Explosives; the Wisconsin Department of Justice -Division of Criminal Investigation-Arson Bureau; the Brown County Fire Investigation Task Force; the Green Bay Police Department; and the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services-Division of Public Health. The case has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney William J. Roach.

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